



This Response is respectfully submitted in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. It is timely in view of the Petition for Extension of Time respectfully submitted concurrently herewith. Applicants respectfully point out that this Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was never received by the applicants. Applicants were unaware of this Notice until December 2, 2002 when Examiner Fubara was kind enough to call the undersigned and indicate that the Notice had been mailed on October 9, 2002. In an abundance of caution, applicants are submitting herewith a Petition for Extension of Time, however, applicants respectfully request the waiver of this fee in view of the fact that the Notice was not received. Examiner Fubara kindly telecopied a copy of the Notice to the undersigned's attention on the evening of December 2, 2002.